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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the Declaration by the Rio Group on United Kingdom military activities in the Malvinas Islands, dated 15 October 2010, in reference to the communication sent by British military forces to the Argentine authorities on 8 October 2010, announcing plans to fire missiles from the territory of the Malvinas Islands.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for this letter and its annex to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 45, concerning the question of the Malvinas Islands (see annex).

(*Signed*) Diego **Limeres**
Minister
Deputy Permanent Representative of the
Argentine Republic to the United Nations
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 18 October 2010 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the Rio Group on United Kingdom military activities in the Malvinas Islands

With reference to the communication sent by British military forces to the Argentine authorities on 8 October 2010, announcing plans to fire missiles from the territory of the Malvinas Islands, the Rio Group rejects the conduct of such an exercise, which contrasts with the region's consistent policy of seeking a peaceful settlement to the dispute in accordance with the appeals of the international community and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 31/49 that call upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the islands go through the process recommended by the General Assembly.

In this regard, the Government of Argentina addressed a note to the United Kingdom protesting the latter's intention to conduct a military exercise and demanding that the British Government refrain from carrying out its plans. This note has been circulated as an official document of the United Nations and of the Organization of American States.

The Rio Group reaffirms its earlier declarations and reiterates its strong support for the legitimate rights of Argentina in the sovereignty dispute with the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland over the Malvinas Islands. It likewise recalls the enduring interest of the region in the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with the aim of finding as soon as possible a peaceful and definitive solution to the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands, and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and declarations of the United Nations and the Organization of American States.

Santiago, 15 October 2010